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# NORTHWOODS Wildlife Habitat Data Base

**Mark D. Nelson, Janine M. Benyus, and Richard R. Buech**

**ABSTRACT**.—Wildlife habitat data from seven Great Lakes National Forests were combined into a wildlife-habitat matrix named NORTHWOODS. Several electronic file formats of NORTHWOODS data base and documentation are available on floppy disks for microcomputers.

KEY WORDS: Data base, NORTHWOODS, wildlife, habitat.

## DESCRIPTION

NORTHWOODS is a wildlife-habitat electronic data base compiled through a joint effort of the USDA Forest Service's North Central Forest Experiment Station (NCFES) and seven national forests in the Upper Great Lakes Region: Chippewa, Superior, Chequamegon, Nicolet, Ottawa, Hiawatha, and Huron-Manistee. Each forest provided a wildlife-habitat data base which the NCFES edited and revised to one common format. These seven data bases were combined to form one new data base (NORTHWOODS) representative of wildlife-habitat relationships throughout the region.

The NORTHWOODS data base is a compilation of information about the habitat needs of 389 species of reptiles, amphibians, birds, and mammals in the Upper Great Lakes Region. It includes data such as common and scientific names of each wildlife species, occurrence of each species in 20 aquatic and terrestrial habitat types, species abundance and season of use in each of seven national forests, and Federal threatened or endangered status. A thorough description of this data base and summaries of data queries are included in a 1992 Research Paper, "Wildlife of the Upper Great Lakes Region: A Community Profile," by Janine M. Benyus, Richard R. Buech, and Mark D. Nelson, North Central Forest Experiment Station (RP-NC-301).

**Mark D. Nelson** is a Wildlife Technician, **Janine M. Benyus** is a Writer, and **Richard R. Buech** is a Research Wildlife Biologist, North Central Forest Experiment Station, St. Paul, MN.

## APPLICATIONS

The NORTHWOODS data base can be used in the planning phase of wildlife habitat management. For example, NORTHWOODS users can identify the wildlife community that would be expected in any chosen habitat type, or they can look up the habitats used by a species, by all endangered species, etc. Generalizations concerning the wildlife community also can be examined through user-defined queries. For example, one can determine the proportion of species that use upland versus lowland forest sites, mature versus young forest age classes, deciduous versus coniferous forest types, etc. Users may add species records and data fields as needed.

## LIMITATIONS

Although the species-habitat data were derived from national forests across the Upper Great Lakes Region, the NORTHWOODS data base does not include every species within the wildlife community of the region. Species not found within one of the seven national forests are not present in this data base. In addition, a species is listed as using a habitat type only if it is present in that type in at least half of the forests in which it occurs. Common and scientific names were current when the data base was created in 1989.

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## REQUIREMENTS

The NORTHWOODS data base is used by the UDSA Forest Service in ORACLE[1] relational data base management system on a Data General[1] mini computer. Data General users can obtain an electronic copy of this ORACLE data base file by sending an electronic request to RWU4202:S23A.

The data base was down-loaded into microcomputer files and is replicated in several file formats for data base, spreadsheet, text editor, and word processing software systems. View README.1ST for instructions and an index of file types. An ASCII file, DEFINIT.TXT, describes data fields and explains one example record. Definitions were excerpted from the publication (RP-NC-301) referenced above. To view and/or print these files, use operating system commands or open the file in your text editor or word processor software.

Users can request NORTHWOODS files on double-sided, double-density floppy disks in three formats; 3.5- and 5.25-inch DOS for IBM[1] compatibles, and 3.5-inch Macintosh[1]. Any personal computer running under a DOS or Macintosh operating system with at least one floppy disk drive should be able to read one or more of the file formats.

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[1] *Use of any product mentioned above does not constitute endorsement by the USDA Forest Service.*

## TROUBLE SHOOTING

A 3.5-inch disk can be read by either DOS or Macintosh, but not both. If you have trouble reading a 3.5-inch floppy disk, check if it was formatted for DOS or Macintosh.

Queries may be run on the existing data set with the user's software. Some software may require numeric rather than character values when running queries. If this is true of your software, you may wish to replace the 'X' values with '1' values when computing summary queries. Most text editor and word processor software can do this with search and replace commands.

Lines may wrap when opening NORTHWOODS.WP in Word Perfect[1], making the file difficult to view. To keep all data from a row on one line, set paper size to 11 x 8.5 inches (landscape) or longer, set left and right margins to 0.3 inch, and set font to courier 6 point.

For help with problems, contact:

Mark Nelson or Dick Buech:
USDA Forest Service
North Central Forest Experiment Station
1992 Folwell Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55108

telephone: 612-649-5104 or 5108

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**ATTENTION:**

If you would like a copy of the software, contact:

NORTHWOODS (Work Unit 4202)
North Central Forest Experiment Station
1992 Folwell Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55108

Indicate the type of computer system and size of disk (see requirements in: RN-NC-359).